

Date Mailed
February 5, 2002

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of Frontier Communications of St. Croix, Inc., for
Authority to Modify and Extend Its Alternative Regulation Plan

5210-TI-102

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING, INVESTIGATION,
ASSESSMENT OF COSTS, REQUEST FOR COMMENTS
AND ORDER**

Comments Due:
Tuesday, February 19, 2002 – Noon

FAX Due:
Monday, February 18, 2002 – Noon

Address Comments To:
David Albino, Administrator
Telecommunications Division
Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854
FAX (608) 266-3957

THIS IS A PROCEEDING TO consider whether it is in the public interest to extend and modify an alternative regulation plan for Frontier Communications of St. Croix, Inc. (St. Croix), and if so, what provisions should be included in such a plan. St. Croix provides telecommunications service to approximately 9,500 access lines in the Star Prairie and New Richmond exchanges. On October 21, 1996, the Commission approved an alternative regulation plan for St. Croix, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 196.195(12) in docket 5210-TI-101. On January 19, 2001, the Commission approved St. Croix's request for waiver of customer market survey requirements.

On April 23, 2001, St. Croix filed an application to modify and extend its existing alternative regulation plan (Plan). In a letter dated September 13, 2001, St. Croix amended its proposal. If approved, the proposed Plan would raise basic residential local rates from \$11.00 to \$12.92, to be phased in over a four-year period. The revenue effect of this increase will be offset by decreases in intrastate access charges paid by long distance companies. Other changes to the Plan approved in 1996 include adjustments to service quality standards, and waiver of additional statutory sections. The Plan also includes implementation of procedures to promote competition in the applicant's service territory. Details of these and other proposals are contained in the applicant's filing. Copies of the applicant's filings may be obtained by written request to Jack Phillips, Frontier Communications, P.O. Box 318, New Richmond, WI 54017 or by e-mail addressed to jack_phillips@frontiercorp.com.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the applicant. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the applicant in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

The Commission may process this case without a hearing, unless one is requested and granted.

Comments respecting the reasonableness of St. Croix's proposal, and requests for hearing must be received by **noon** on **Tuesday, February 19, 2002**. Parties submitting comments by fax must do so by **noon** on **Monday, February 18, 2002**. Parties should file an **original and 20 copies** of their comments addressed as shown in the box above and must refer to docket 5210-TI-102. Members of the general public need file only one copy. Fax filing cover sheets must state "Official Filing," the docket number and the number of pages (limit 20 pages). File by one mode only.

IT IS ORDERED that the Commission's October 21, 1996, order in 5210-TI-102 be and is hereby extended to the earlier of the effective date of the new plan or April 30, 2002. During this period, St. Croix shall not increase rates on regulated services. All other terms and conditions of the Commission's order remain in effect.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to docket coordinator Kenneth Barth at (608) 267-2406.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

LLD:KGB:srd:tmg:g:\notice\pending\5210-TI-102